

Message Text

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21

ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-03 AID-05 EB-03 PRS-01 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7408

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON, WFC

SUBJ: FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL BOERMA PROPOSED WORLD FOOD SECURITY
COUNCIL

REF.: (A) ROME 14005; (B) ROME 14041; (C) ROME 12287

/SUMMARY:/ FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL BOERMA PROPOSED CREATION OF
WORLD FOOD SECURITY COUNCIL AS "INTEGRAL" PART OF FAO FOLLOWING
PRESENTATION HIS VIEWS ON FOOD SITUATION REPORTED REF(B) AND
ALONG LINES REPORTED REF(A). HE EMPHASIZED THIS HIS PERSONAL IDEA
AND THAT HE WAS PROPOSING IT FOR CONSIDERATION OF GOVERNMENTS
ALONG WITH OTHER CURRENT PROPOSALS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT WORLD FOOD
SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD MEET THIRD PREPARATORY COMMITTEE RECO-
MMENDATION FOR HIGH LEVEL MECHANISM TO REVIEW WORLD FOOD SITU-
ATION. /END SUMMARY/

1. BOERMA EXPLAINED TO FAO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES THAT PROPOSED
FOLLOWED FROM HIS VIEW OF IMPLICATIONS FOR FAO OF WFC THIRD
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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. HE SAID THIS WAS HIS VIEW AND HE WANTED

RESPONSES FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR CONSIDERATION BY FAO COUNCIL WHICH MEETS TWO DAYS AFTER WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE.

2. BOERMA SAID SEVEN MAJOR AREAS OF WORK ON WHICH CONSENSUS EMERGING: INPUTS, RESEARCH, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, INVESTMENT, NUTRITION, WORLD FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD AID. HE SINGLED OUT TWO AREAS FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION OF FAO INVESTMENT AND WORLD FOOD SECURITY.

3. BOERMA NOTED THIRD PREPARATORY COMMITTEE PRINCIPLE THAT "MAXIMUM EFFORTS BE MADE TO STRENGTHEN AND REINFORCE EXISTING INSTITUTIONS." HE THEN SPECIFIED THAT FAO COULD BE SO STRENGTHENED IN AREAS OF INVESTMENT AND WORLD FOOD SECURITY.

4. INVESTMENT. BOERMA PROPOSES SETTING UP "AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM" BY EXPANSION OF FAO INVESTMENT CENTER WHICH COLLABORATES WITH IBRD, REGIONAL AND PRIVATE BANKS. THIS WOULD ACCOMMODATE MAJOR INCREASE IN LEVEL INVESTMENT AID, MONITOR FLOW OF RESOURCES AND ASSESS IMPACT IN RELATION TO TARGETED INCREASES IN FOOD PRODUCTION. THIS SHOULD BE DONE "IRRESPECTIVE" OF WHETHER OR NOT MAREI'S AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND IS ESTABLISHED AND WOULD ABSORB PRESENT FAO INVESTMENT CENTER. IF MAREI FUND CREATED, FAO ROLE WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE AS IS NOW WITH WORLD FOOD PROGRAM: PROVIDING PROJECT IDENTIFICATION, FORMULATION AND APPRAISAL. IF NO NEW FUND CREATED, AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM WOULD HELP REGIONAL FUNDS AND BILATERAL PROGRAMS. THE COST TO FAO WOULD BE 25 PERCENT OVERALL AS WITH PRESENT FAO/IBRD COOPERATIVE PROGRAM.

5. BOERMA ENDORSED PREPARATORY COMMITTEE'S SUGGESTED CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT (TO ENSURE COORDINATION AMONG SOURCES OF FUNDING) JOINTLY SPONSORED BY FAO, IBRD AND UNDP. MEMBERSHIP WOULD INCLUDE INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENTS. HEADQUARTERS AT FAO WITH AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM PROVIDING SECRETARIAT. THIS GROUP WOULD REPORT TO WORLD FOOD SECURITY COUNCIL.

6. BOERMA OBSERVED THAT EVEN WITH WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE BACKING, IT WILL TAKE LONG TIME TO BUILD UP COMPREHENSIVE WORLD FOOD

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SECURITY SYSTEM. IN MEANTIME, SITUATION REMAINS PRECARIOUS. THEREFORE, TO PROVIDE FOCUS AND STIMULUS FOR URGENT ACTION, BOERMA ADVOCATES CREATION "WORLD FOOD SECURITY COUNCIL AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF FAO." THIS A MINISTERIAL LEVEL BODY MEETING ANNUALLY (A) TO REVIEW INFORMATION SUBMITTED TO DIRECTOR-GENERAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY AND DATA RECEIVED FROM EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS; (B) TO REVIEW AVAILABILITY FOOD AID RELATIVE TO NEEDS AND (C) TO ISSUE

RECOMMENDATION FOR COORDINATED ACTION BY MEMBERS OF CONSULTATIVE GROUP, INCLUDING STOCK POLICY COORDINATION, CONSTRUCTION STORAGE AND BUILDING STOCKS. MANDATE OF WORLD FOOD SECURITY CONCIL COULD EXTEND TO OVERALL REVIEW PROGRESS AND BOTTLENECKS IN RESOLVING WORLD FOOD PROBLEM. THE COUNCIL COULD BE "OVERALL AND HIGH-LEVEL MECHANISM" RECOMMENDED BY PREPARATORY COMMITTEE.

7. THE WORLD FOOD SECURITY COUNCIL COULD BE BASED EITHER (A) ON EXISTING FAO COUNCIL OR (B) BE A NEW BODY ESTABLISHED BY FAO CONFERENCE WITH STATUS ESTABLISHED THROUGH ADDITION F A NEW ARTICLE TO FAO CONSTITUTION. MEMBERSHIP COULD BE ON "STATES MEMBERS" FORMULA TO INCLUDE NON-FAO MEMBERS. NEW COUNCIL WOULD REPORT TO ECOSOC, GA, FAO COUNCIL AND CONFERENCE.

8. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES RESERVED COMMENT.

9. TEXT STATEMENT BEING POUCHED IO/AGR.

10. /COMMENT:/ THIS UNDOUBTEDLY CONSTITUTES BOERMA'S LONG-HINTED-AT ALTERNATIVE TO MAREI'S WORLD FOOD AUTHORITY (REF C). DISCUSION WITH CHEF DE CABINET WLATON SUGGESTS BOERMA HAS SNIFFED THE WIND AND BELIEVES THAT FAO MAY EMERGE FROM WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE STRENGTHENED RATHER THAN DIMINISHED IN IMPORTANCE. MAREI'S OFFICE HAS REQUESTED USUN GIVE HANNAH SUMMARY OF BOERMA'S STATEMENT.BEAUDRY

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